

Virginia State Newcomer Health Program



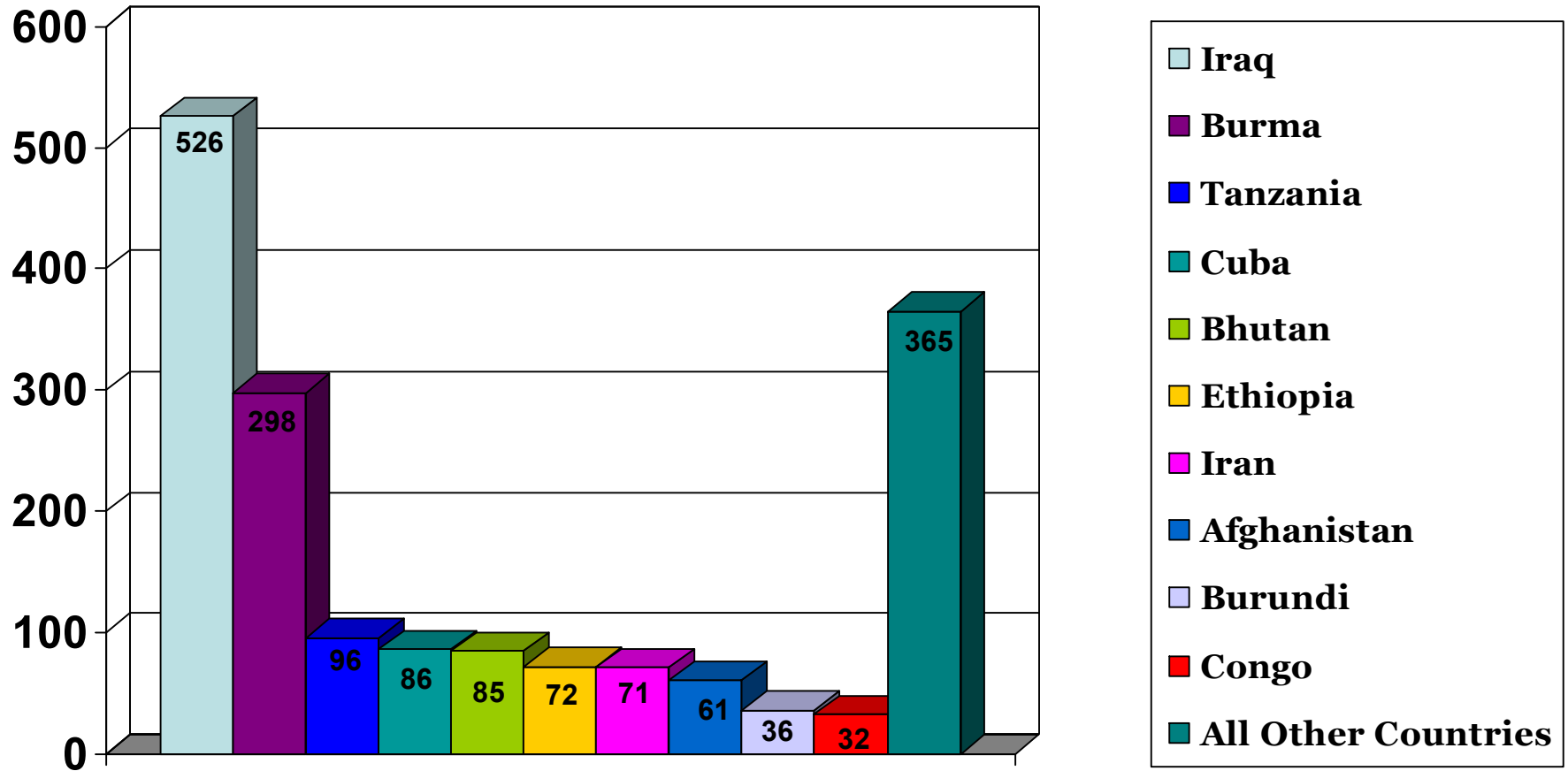


New-State Initial Refugee Health Screening Protocol

**TB State Nurses Conference-Williamsburg, VA
November 4, 2009**

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Refugee Resettlement to Virginia
Country of Origin (Top 10)
FFY 2008 (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)
Total n=1728
(Top 10) Total n=1363





MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Newcomer Health Program is the surveillance, prevention and control of identified public health problems among newcomers entering the Commonwealth of Virginia

Responsibility of the NHP

Coordination of Care

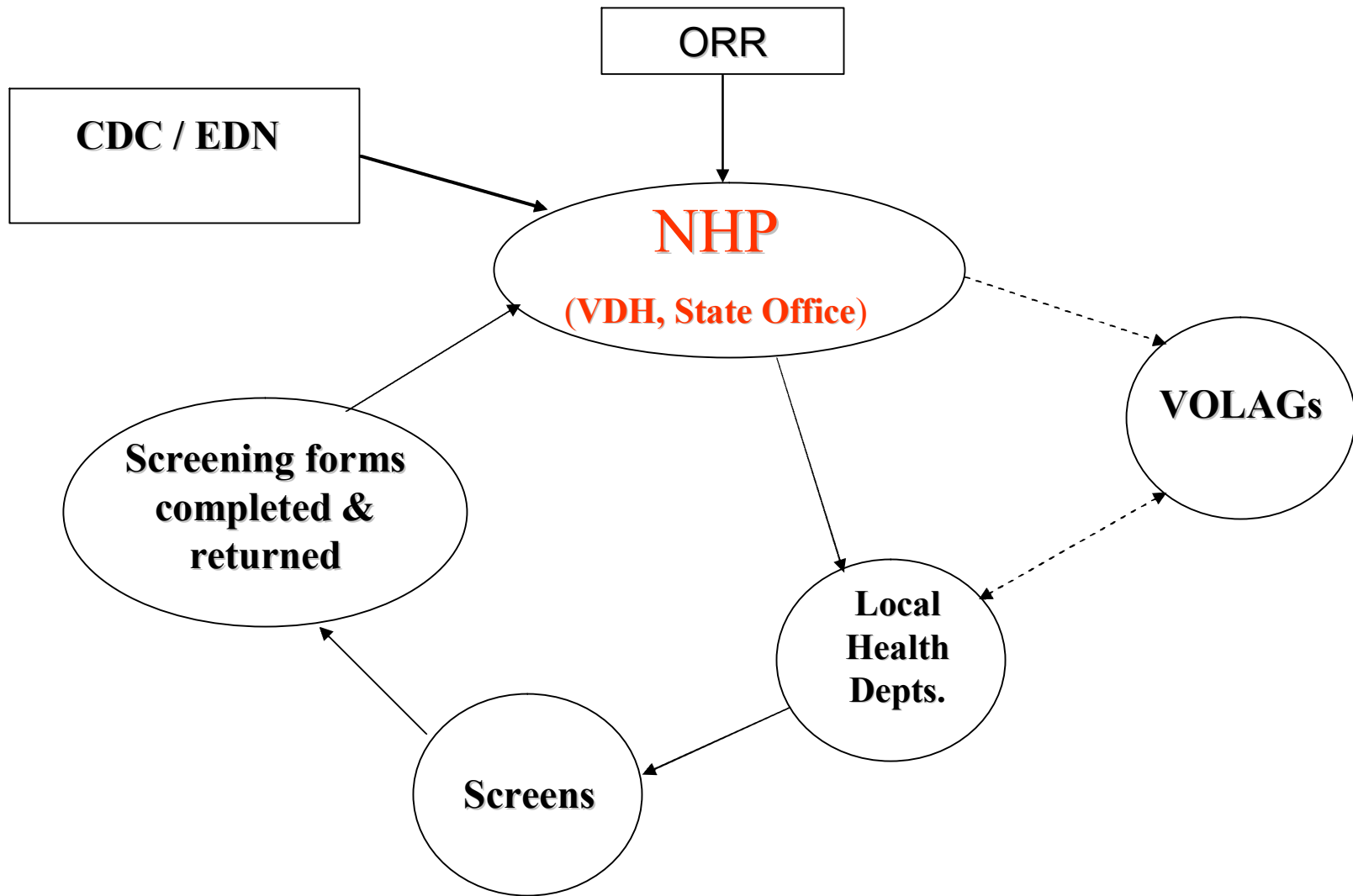
- NHP works with federal, state, and refugee resettlement agencies as well as LHDs to develop coordinated & comprehensive health services for refugees in Virginia

Education & Training

- NHP provides technical assistance and consultation services to medical & service providers who work with refugees

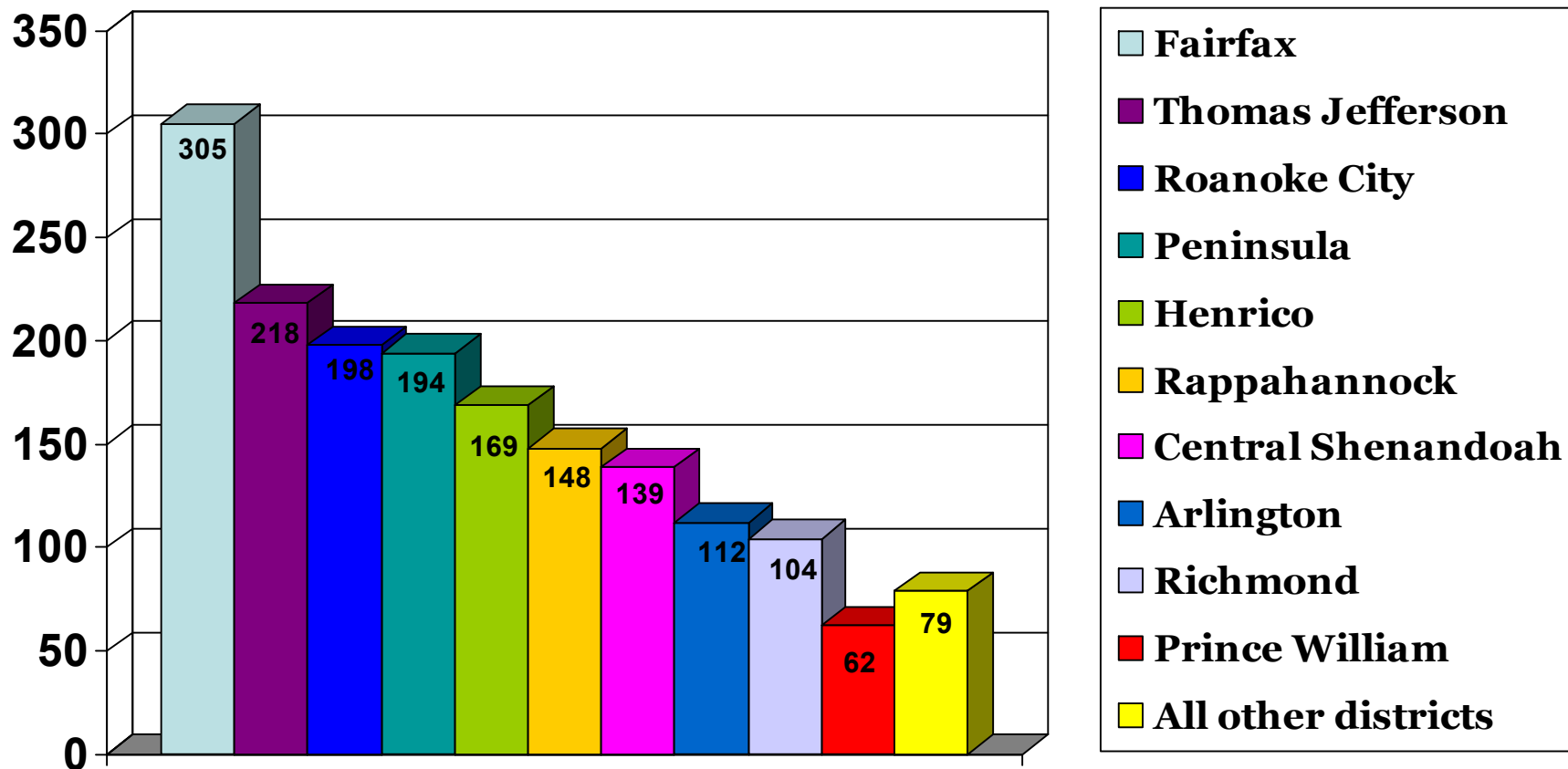
Surveillance & Investigation

- The NHP maintains the CDC, EDN and State database systems in order to track refugee health information for planning & reporting purposes.
- NHP Manager serves as the 1st point of contact to federal & other state agencies regarding refugee & immigrant health issues in the Commonwealth.



**Refugee Resettlement to Virginia
Local Health Districts (Top 10)
FFY 2008 (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008)**

**Total n=1728
(Top 10) Total n=1649**



NHP Goals

- LHDs will complete the initial health assessment of new refugees and asylee arrivals within 30-45 days of arrival in Virginia
- To identify & eliminate health related barriers to successful resettlement of Virginia's refugee population while protecting the health of the public.

NHP Goals

To control communicable diseases among, and resulting from, the arrival of new refugees through:

- Health assessment
- Treatment
- Referral

Virginia's Initial Refugee Health Screening

Protocol is based upon:

- ORR Domestic Refugee Health Screening Guidelines, 1995

Reasons for re-vamping State Protocol

- CDC Technical Instructions (TB & Immunizations) for Civil Surgeons-updated 7/2008
- CDC-Domestic Refugee Screening Guidelines-updated 2/2009

Reasons for re-vamping State Protocol

- Refugee Resettlement Agencies- complained to VDSS/ONS-about initial refugee health services at LHDs
- NHP informed by ORR in 5/09- 40 % increase in the # of refugee resettled in VA during FFY 09 (10/1/08-9/30/09)

Virginia's New Initial Refugee Health Screening Protocol



Level 1

Screenings **Required** for
Reimbursement

Amount of Reimbursement
\$500.00

Flat rate reimbursement-regardless of age

Level 1-Screening

- TB
- Medical History
- Physical Assessment:
 - Height, Weight, BP, Vision, Hearing & Dental*
- CBC with diff
- Immunizations
 - Up to one year post-arrival in U.S.*
 - Exception: HPV for refugees > 19 years of age*

Level 2

Screenings **Recommended** for
Reimbursement

Amount of Reimbursement
\$125.00

**Flat rate reimbursement-regardless of age*

Level 2-New Protocol

- Heart & Lung Screening-all refugees
- Screen for: Hepatitis B, O& P, Pregnancy, & Malaria
Only If Indicated
- Age specific recommended screening
Developmental, Nutrition, HIV, STI, Glucose, Cholesterol & Cancer Info/Evaluation
- Public Health Case Mgmt/Referrals

Major Changes-to State Protocol

Overall Changes

- Screening Levels reduced from **4 to 2** levels
- Significant **Increase** in reimbursement to LHDs for each refugee screened

\$175.00 increase for children < age 11

\$225.00 increase for refugees > age 11

Current Challenges

- Medical Records Backlog at CDC in ATL, GA
- Interpreter Services

Any Questions ?





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